

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to discuss an international organization funded by this bill—the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). As many of my colleagues know, the OECD was founded in 1961 as a successor to the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC). Since its inception, the OECD has never strayed too far from its core missions: to see that its member nations achieve the highest sustainable economic growth and employment, to contribute to sound economic expansion in Member as well as non-member nations, and to contribute to the expansion of world trade on a multilateral, non-discriminatory basis.

The OECD continues to do important economic work. For example, it is working on the Asian economic crisis. It is making an effort to help Russia get on the right economic track. The OECD is also the organization that developed the Anti-Bribery Convention now pending before Congress. OECD economic studies are considered crucial to understanding the functioning of the global economy. It is doing cutting edge work on regulatory and tax reform. And the OECD is taking the lead on understanding the impact that electronic commerce will have on global economic issues. In short, the OECD is as important today to its member nations as it was at its inception.

Nonetheless, the OECD understands that in today's tough budgetary environment, they need to find ways to do more with less. The OECD is reforming on its own initiative. In fact, I believe it has shown real leadership in this area. As its internal reforms continue, I believe we should take a close look at how these reforms are being implemented, and perhaps even hold it up as example for other international organizations.

I would also like to draw the Chairman's attention to the work of the OECD Development Center. Over the years, the OECD Development Center has served as a bridge between OECD nations and emerging economies around the world. The Center's reputation as an "honest broker," along with its commitment to promoting market-opening reforms, makes it an excellent resource to policy makers in developed nations and developing countries alike.

Mr. Chairman, the OECD and the OECD Development Center are important to U.S. international economic interests. I am hopeful that their important work will continue.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, last night, during consideration of H.R. 4276, the Departments of Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 1999, on roll call vote 398, the Hefley amendment, I was recorded as voting "aye" but intended to vote "no."

On May 28, President Clinton issued Executive Order (13083) intending to provide a uniform policy for the federal government to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. The order amended an Executive Order signed in 1969 by President Richard Nixon which prohibited discrimination in federal employment "because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin * * *." The new order does not create any new enforcement rights for discrimination based on sexual orientation since such enforcement rights must be passed by the Congress. The Hefley amendment would have prohibited any federal funds from being used to implement or enforce Executive Order 13803.

I have always strenuously opposed discrimination of any kind. I believe that employment opportunities should be given on the basis of ability and therefore feel that one's sexual orientation should play no part in hiring, promotion or firing decisions. Accordingly, I intended to vote against the Hefley amendment.

GOVERNMENT DISCRIMINATION IN GERMANY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my support to the House Resolution that expresses the sense of Congress with respect to government discrimination in Germany based on religion or belief, particularly against United States citizens.

Government discrimination against members of minority groups, including American citizens, solely because of their religious beliefs, is occurring in Germany at the federal, state and local level. All acts have been documented in the last five State Department Human Rights Reports, United Nations Reports, and the most recent reports of the State Department Advisory Committee on Human Rights. Despite attempts of our State Department to address the issue with the German government, it is only getting worse.

Because of a strong grass roots movement in this country by people of faith who are committed to ending religious persecution, Congress is taking a strong step toward helping to end international religious persecution. The right for someone to practice their faith should not be infringed by government actions. Our country was founded on this principle, and we should stand up for this principle when we deal with other countries.

Religious persecution is morally unacceptable. Government discrimination based on religious belief, especially when it impacts Amer-

ican citizens, should not be allowed to persist without comment. I support this resolution offered by Representative MATT SALMON and I urge other Members to do the same.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM AULL, III

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to pay tribute to William (Bill) Aull, III, a good friend and outstanding attorney, who recently passed away at the age of 82.

A native of Lexington, MO, Aull graduated from Westminster College in Fulton, MO, and continued his education at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he received his Juris Doctorate degree. Bill began his law profession as the Prosecuting Attorney in Lafayette County, which led to a position as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri. He continued as the City Attorney for his hometown of Lexington, and spent most of his professional career practicing law there.

A veteran of World War II, Bill commanded a company of the 442nd Japanese-American Infantry Regiment in Italy. He received numerous decorations during his tour, including the Silver Star. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after twenty years of service with the United States Army Reserve.

In addition to his outstanding professional and military service, Bill served as the president of the Commerce Bank of Lexington, the Lexington R-5 Board of Education, the Missouri Historical Society, and the Wentworth Military Academy Board. He also served as an elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Lexington.

Aull is survived by his wife Tuni, one son, two daughters, one step-son, one step-daughter, and eight grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Martha Bolding Aull.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Aull's public service and military career make him a role model for young civic leaders, and his closeness within the Lexington community will greatly be missed. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this distinguished Missourian.

BREAK THE CYCLE OF PERSECUTION OF IRANIAN BAHAI'S

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, adherents of the Baha'i faith in Iran have lived a precarious and dangerous existence since the religion originated in what was then Persia in the 1840's.

Originally the Baha'i faithful were persecuted by Muslims in Iran as heretics. They were exiled to Baghdad and then to Akka, in Palestine, then part of the Ottoman Empire. As a result, the Baha'i World Center was established in Haifa, Israel, near the site of Akka, where it remains today. From those humble beginnings, today about 300,000 Baha'is live in Iran, with millions more in communities elsewhere around the world. As such,

Baha'is comprise the largest religious minority in Iran today.

Unfortunately, little has changed for the Iranian Baha'is since the time the faith was founded. Although the U.S. State Department reports that exile is not a tool presently used to persecute Iranian Baha'is, Baha'is in Iran are subject to ongoing, egregious violations of their human rights.

Since the Iranian Revolution in 1979, over 200 Baha'is have been executed by the government solely for their religious beliefs. It is important to note that Baha'is have never engaged in any illegal activity nor participated in any form of opposition to the Iranian government. In fact, one of the basic tenets of the Baha'i faith is obedience to the civil law in the country where the adherent lives and the Baha'is in Iran have followed the tenet to the letter. When Iranian law was changed to effectively forbid the administration of the Baha'i Faith by elected groups and require the disbanding of Baha'i schools, the Baha'is of Iran complied, although these steps are a major impediment to the continued vitality of the Baha'i community in Iran.

Since the founding of the faith, Baha'is have been persecuted to varying degrees. Unfortunately, there are disturbing new signs that we may be entering a period of increased persecution. On July 21, the Government of Iran executed by hanging Mr. Ruhollah Rowhani, a Baha'i from the northern Iranian city of Mashad. He was arrested over ten months ago and charged with converting a Muslim to the Baha'i faith. He was held in solitary confinement without access to lawyers or his family. Then, after a sham trial in which he was deprived of the right to offer a defense, he was sentenced and killed.

A further cause for alarm over this heinous act is the fact that fifteen other Baha'is are currently in detention in Iran and three may face imminent execution. It is unclear when or if these men—all charged with religious crimes—will be put to death, but three have been found guilty and are essentially in the same position Mr. Rowhani was immediately prior to his execution.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Iran clearly marches to the beat of its very own drummer. Nevertheless, I cannot see one single reason the Iranian government would execute Mr. Rowhani and threaten the lives of other Baha'is at a time when the outlook is more promising than it has been in a long time for an exploration of the possibility of a gradual move toward normalization with the rest of the world community. The Iranian authorities must be made to realize that the U.S. Congress, the administration, and the world community consider treatment of Baha'is and other religious minorities as one of the crucial yardsticks to measure Iran's progress toward re-entering the ranks of the global community.

The Government of Iran must be aware that the U.S. Congress has passed no less than seven resolutions since 1982 condemning persecution of Baha'is in Iran and calling for their emancipation. The Iranians must also know that the UN has adopted a number of resolutions regarding the persecution of the Baha'is in Iran and that the U.S. State Department carefully monitors and releases a widely-read annual report on such persecution. Congress, the administration and the world know when the Iranian Government is violating the principles of the UN Universal Declaration on

Human Rights, which Iran has signed. We are watching carefully.

I call on the Government of Iran to cease the persecution of all of its citizens, including Baha'is, to release those currently being held, and to break the historical, mindless pattern of persecution of the Iranian Baha'i and all other religious minorities in Iran.

INTRODUCTION OF INDIAN TRUST FUND JUDICIAL PROCEDURE ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce, by request, the Indian Trust Fund Judicial Procedure Act on behalf of the Intertribal Monitoring Association (ITMA). Earlier this session I introduced legislation to address the Indian trust fund problems as proposed by the Administration.

The legislation I am introducing today would set up a temporary court to address claims against the United States regarding tribal trust funds. A Special Master would be appointed and staffed to get as much information as possible together on all trust fund accounts and activity in order to come up with a formula to then apply to each account for restitution.

The problems with the Indian trust fund accounts is one I have worked on for much of my time in Congress. It is complex and controversial. I believe that this legislative approach by the ITMA and its member Indian tribes will continue the debate begun with the Administration's approach on how to come to a resolution regarding the Indian trust fund accounts held by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

WASHINGTON WELCOMES THE TAOTAO TANO DANCERS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on July 17, 1998, I was delighted to co-host an event with the Smithsonian showcasing the impressive talents of Guam's Taotao Tano Cultural Dancers. For their first performance in Washington, D.C., the dancers traveled many miles to perform in the Meyer Auditorium at the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art. Newcomers, as well as those familiar with and native to our island, were given the opportunity to share in Guam's cultural heritage. Some of us were even invited to go onstage with the dancers and learn some of the steps of the *batsu*, a native dance influenced by the Spanish. Under the guidance of choreographer Frank Rabon, the dancers also took the audience back in time by revitalizing ancient dances, chants and songs from prior to European colonization. Colorful and authentic costumes enhanced the women's graceful movements and strong voices. The intense energy and well-honed skills of the male performers impressed everyone in attendance that evening.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Taotao Tano Cultural Dancers for their lively

and engaging performance, as well as to thank the staff members of the Guam Council of Arts and Humanities (CAHA) who facilitated the event. These individuals were:

CAHA Staff: Ms. Jackie Balbas, Mr. Vid Qutoriano, and Mr. Paul Cruz.

Performers: Mr. Frank Rabon, Choreographer, Mr. Ryan Aguigui, Ms. Maxine Bigler, Mr. Frank Cruz, Mr. Darrell Lujan, Mr. Dominic Mendiola, Ms. Eileen Meno, Ms. Renati Narcis, Mr. Art Pangelinan, Mr. Angel Pares, Mr. Jonathan Paulino, Mr. Eric Reyes, Ms. Judene Salas, Mr. David San Luis, Ms. Rosanna San Luis, Mr. Brian San Nicolas, and Ms. Bobby Tainatongo.

Having received the invitation from the Guam Society of America to come to Washington, the Taotao Tano dancers were fortunate to receive their continued support upon arrival. Under the leadership of president Lou Barrett, the members of the Guam Society opened their hearts and their homes to the dancers in order to ensure a pleasant stay and help them travel throughout the city.

With less than a week to make this performance a reality, I am indebted to the Office of the Governor of Guam for finding the funds to support the dancers. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to two members of the Smithsonian, Mr. Franklin S. Odo, Counselor of the Provost, and Ms. Stacey Suyat, Program Associate of the Office of the Provost, whose prompt efforts in securing a venue for the performers were invaluable given the time constraints to which we were subject. I also wish to thank Ms. Lucia Pierce, Head of the Education Department at the Sackler Gallery of Asian Art, and Mr. Michael Wilpers, Public Programs of the Freer Gallery, for their aid in finding a performance space for the dancers.

It was truly a privilege to collaborate with such dedicated individuals. It is my hope that future events which promote Guam's culture and arts will be as warmly received as the performance of the Taotao Tano Cultural Dancers.

ADDRESS OF JOHN BRADEMAS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, one of my distinguished predecessors as Representative in Congress of the Third District of Indiana is my friend, Dr. John Brademas, now President Emeritus of New York University.

John Brademas is also, by appointment of President Clinton, Chairman of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

On July 18, 1998, Dr. Brademas delivered an address to delegates attending the National Conference of Academic Deans in which he discussed the recommendations of the President's Committee contained in "Creative America", the Committee's report to the President, with recommendations for strengthening support for these fields in our country.

Dr. Brademas also spoke of the significant role of the nation's colleges and universities in teaching the arts and the humanities.

Because I believe Members will find Dr. Brademas' remarks in Memphis of interest, I insert the text of his address at this point in the RECORD.